In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 12, 16, 20 and 21 as indicated below.

1. (Twice Amended) A computerized method for monitoring for a user the price activities of a financial instrument traded in a financial instrument traded in a financial market in a given timeframe, comprising the steps of:

(a) plotting a plurality of bars on a price-time chart by a processor wherein said price-time chart is a two dimensional chart, with the Y-coordinate representing price and X-coordinate representing time, with the X-axis divided into a predetermined plurality of discrete intervals, each interval has a bar associated with it, each interval represents an amount of time equal to that of the given timeframe, each bar indicates at least a high price and a low price traded by the market during the associated time interval of the bar and each bar is vertically displayed on said chart;

(b) employing a bar with the processor from said chart and building a frequency distribution with the processor wherein an interval between a high and low price of said bar is divided into a plurality of discrete predetermined price intervals and said frequency distribution identifies the amount of trading activities taken place in each of the said discrete price intervals within the period of time represented by said bar;

(c) deriving a set of discrete intra-market elements from said frequency distribution with the processor, said set of discrete intra-market elements comprising at least one of a continuous price range containing substantially high trading activities, a price interval containing the highest trading activities, and a continuous price rage containing substantially low trading activities;

(d) representing on a computer display device each element of said set of intra-market elements by a first geometric figure, and overlaying said first geometric figure onto said bar; and

(e) displaying on a computer display device the overlaid price-time chart to the user.

7. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

graphically representing on a computer display device a price interval with the highest trading activities by a dot, said dot having a diameter substantially smaller than the physical length of a time interval on the X-axis of said price-time chart, said dot having a center being collinear with the high and low price of said bar, and the said dot having a Y-coordinate centered on the mid-point of said price interval.

8. (Twice amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said continuous price range with substantially low trading activities is a continuous price range with the top end being the high price of said bar, said continuous price range encompasses a set of price intervals on the frequency distribution diagram, and each price interval of said set of price intervals contains trading activities below a predetermined amount; and the step of representing each element further comprises:

graphically representing on a computer display device said continuous price range on said bar by a second geometric figure.

10. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said continuous price range with substantially low trading activities is a continuous price range with the bottom end of the range being the low price of the bar, said continuous price range encompasses a set of price intervals on the frequency distribution diagram, and each price interval of said set of price intervals contains trading activities below a predetermined amount;

and the step of representing each element further comprises:

graphically representing on a computer display device said continuous price range with substantially low trading activities on said bar by a third geometric figure.

12. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

graphically representing on a computer display device at least one continuous price range with substantially high trading activities by a fourth geometric figure and overlaying said fourth geometric figure onto said bar, said fourth geometric figure being a rectangle with a predetermined width and length, said rectangle has vertices with Y-coordinates enclosing said continuous price range with substantially high trading activities, and said rectangle has the center being collinear with the high and low price of said bar.

16. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said continuous price range containing substantially high trading activities is derived by steps comprising:

(a) calculating by a processor a mean price of the price distribution from said frequency distribution, denoting the result by X;

(b) calculating by a processor a standard deviation price of the price distribution from said frequency distribution and denoting the result by Y; and

(c) defining with a processor said continuous price range to be the value $X \pm (Y)(b)$, wherein b is a predetermined constant.

20. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of taking a bar from the chart further comprises:

taking each of the bars from the said chart, and determining frequency distribution for each bar;

and the step of deriving a set of discrete intra-market elements further comprises:

for each of the bars, deriving set of intra-market elements from the corresponding frequency distribution, said set of intra-market elements comprise at least one intra-market element;

and the step of representing each element further comprises:

graphically representing on a computer display device each intra-market element of said set of intra-market elements by a fifth geometric figure and overlaying said fifth geometric figure onto the bar.

21. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said frequency distribution diagram is built internally by a computer while the price-time chart with the overlaid intra-market elements is displayed on a computer display device to the user.

In the Drawings

Amended Figures 6-A, 6-B, and 6-C are proposed and submitted herein with this response.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the various objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action January 15, 2003 is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing Amendment and following Remarks. Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 12, 16, 20, and 21 have been amended.

Amendment to the Drawings

The drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR §1.83(a), wherein it has been asserted that the drawings do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the Examiner has stated that features of Claim 1 have not been shown in the drawings.